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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 19 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of
Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that on 11 November 1997 the Parliament of Georgia gave its final approval to the abolition of capital punishment in the country.

The draft law on the abolition of capital punishment was submitted to the Parliament for consideration by the President of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, and was followed by painstaking discussions of legislators who have carried out a difficult and responsible work that consequently led to the final decision.

In 1995, at the initiative of the President of Georgia, death penalties were suspended. In July of 1997, 54 prisoners, sentenced to death, received Presidential clemency, commuting their sentence to 20 years of imprisonment (A/52/262).

The Georgian Parliament seriously considered the draft law on the abolition of capital punishment and approved it almost unanimously, being confident that the decision would be the major step forward in establishing democratic, just and humane norms in our country.

May I ask your kind assistance in having the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 112, "Human rights questions".

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

